

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A surgical device, comprising:

a handle configured to be gripped;

a cylinder penetrator attached to said handle which includes a hollow cannula and a slidable member slidably mounted in said cannula;

a substantially planar blade having at least a first blade edge, said blade being attached to a distal end of said penetrator and oriented substantially parallel to a main axis of said cylinder penetrator and configured to produce a substantially planar opening in a body tissue for an insertion of a surgical cannula, and

a substantially planar guard configured to expose a cutting tip of the blade, said guard having [[an]] a distal end having a substantially uniform, continuous taper so as to form an edge angle smaller than a blade edge angle of said blade when viewed in plan view.

Claim 2 (Original): The surgical device according to claim 1, further comprising:

said blade having a first and second blade edge, wherein:

said blade being oriented substantially parallel to said main axis of said cylinder penetrator.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 2, wherein a tip portion of said blade is substantially located along said main axis of said penetrator.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 1, further comprising a guard mounted on said a slidable member and moveable with respect to said blade to cover said at least first blade edge.

Claims 5-31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein said penetrator is hollow.

Claim 33 (Original): The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein said first blade has two cutting edges.

Claims 34-211 (Canceled).

Claim 212 (Currently Amended): A surgical device, comprising:

- a handle configured to be gripped;
- a cannula;
- a cylinder penetrator attached to said handle, said penetrator including a slidable member; and
- a substantially planar blade having at least a first blade edge, said blade being attached to a distal end of said penetrator and being oriented substantially parallel to a main axis of said cylinder penetrator and being configured to produce a partially planar opening in a body tissue for an insertion of a surgical cannula, said substantially planar guard being configured to expose a cutting tip of the blade, said guard having a distal end having a

substantially uniform, continuous taper and said guard having a safety guard edge angle smaller than a blade edge angle of said blade when viewed in plan view.

Claim 213 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 212, said blade having a first and second blade edge, and said blade being oriented substantially parallel to said main axis of said cylinder penetrator.

Claim 214 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 213, wherein a tip portion of said blade is located substantially in proximity with an extension of said main axis of said cylinder penetrator.

Claim 215 (Previously Presented): The surgical device according to claim 212, further comprising a guard moveable with respect to said blade to cover said at least first blade edge.

Claims 216-222 (Canceled).

Claim 223 (Currently Amended): The surgical device according to claim 214, wherein:

said planar blade includes a plurality of cutting edges configured to intersect substantially at the main axis of said cylinder penetrator; and

[[said]] an insufflation passageway formed in said penetrator which is substantially aligned with said main axis and which is communicated to said cutting tip and to a distal portion of said hollow cannula and of said substantially planar guard.

Claims 224-260 (Canceled).